

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 133821
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL/OSD/ISA:COL. WALKER:MS
APPROVED BY EUR/WE - EDWARD M. ROWELL
EUR/RPM - COL. ROBINSON
PM/SAS - MR. SMITH
OSD/ISA - B/G BOWMAN (DRAFT)
-----119477 260644Z /14

R 252151Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133821

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, IT

SUBJECT: U.S.-ITALIAN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON
DEFENSE COOPERATION

REFS: (A) ROME 9301 AND (B) STATE 87290

1. WE NOTE COMMENT IN REFTEL (A) THAT ITALIAN INDUSTRY
AND MOI WERE GENERALLY DISILLUSIONED WITH THE SECOND U.S.
DRAFT MOU PROVIDED BY DR. PERRY DURING HIS VISIT IN
JANUARY AND DECIDED TO USE THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT U.S.-
NORWEGIAN MOU INSTEAD. HOWEVER, THE DRAFT WHICH DR. PERRY
LEFT WAS IDENTICAL WITH THE NORWEGIAN TEXT, SUBSTITUTING
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ITALY FOR NORWAY. THERE WERE A FEW MINOR CHANGES IN THE
NORWEGIAN DRAFT AFTER THAT TIME WHICH WE ALSO GAVE TO ITALY
AND SAID WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ADD TO THE ITALIAN DRAFT.

2. PRESUMABLY THE DIFFICULTY HAS BEEN A DISPUTE BETWEEN
THOSE GOI OFFICIALS WHO WANT A GUARANTEE OF AN EVEN BALANCE
IN MILITARY TRADE AND THOSE WHO RECOGNIZE THAT WHILE SOME

IMPROVEMENT IS POSSIBLE AN EVEN BALANCE IS HIGHLY IM-
PROBABLE. DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON, GENERAL MOIZO
MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS ONE OF THOSE WHO JUST HOPED FOR
SOME IMPROVEMENT AND THEREFORE COULD ACCEPT THE DRAFT MOU
WITHOUT ANY SUCH GUARANTEE.

3. THE TWO CHANGES TO THE MOU WHICH REFTEL (A) INDICATES
THE ITALIANS ARE CONSIDERING HAVE NEVER BEEN GIVEN TO
DEFENSE FORMALLY, BUT DEFENSE HAS INDICATED INFORMALLY
TO THE ITALIANS THAT IT DOES NOT VIEW THEM AS SUBSTANTIVE
FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW. IT IS APPARENT THAT MORE RAPID
PROGRESS ON THE MOU WILL BE POSSIBLE TO THE EXTENT THAT
THE FOLLOW-UP IS MANAGED BY GENERAL MOIZO AND DR. PERRY,
AS NATO ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS, RECOGNIZING THAT CLEARANCE
IS NECESSARY WITH NON-MILITARY AGENCIES ON BOTH SIDES.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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